

Geneva January 2024

ISRAEL

National Annual Report

Submitted in accordance with Article 13, para.4 of the
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines,
Booby-Traps and Other Devices
As Amended on 3 May 1996 Annexed to the CCW

**PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES,
BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES
AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996
ANNEXED TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS
ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS
OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS
(PROTOCOL II AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996)**

Provisional Reporting Formats for Article 13 para.2 and Article 11 para.2

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY

ISRAEL

DATE OF SUBMISSION

January 2024

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Strategic Affairs Division
Arms Control Policy Department
Jerusalem 91950, Israel
Tel: 972-2-5303276
E-mail: armscontrol@mfa.gov.il**

**Ministry of Defense
Politico-Military Affairs Bureau
Arms Control & Defense Exp. Policy.
Hakiryia, Tel Aviv 64734, Israel
Tel: 972-3-6977765**

This information can be made available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>
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Form A
Article
13.4.a

Dissemination of information

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(a) **dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and to the civilian population;**"

Remark:

High Contracting Party ISRAEL reporting for the time period of 1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023

Information to the Armed Forces

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Engineering Corps (EC) implements APII and takes measures in order to further ensure that the relevant military authorities in the IDF are aware of the provisions of the Protocol and their implications.

IDF's EC instructions and standard operating procedures are reviewed regularly in order to verify their compatibility with the provisions of APII. Any contravention of such instructions may result in an IDF investigation and possible disciplinary or penal procedures, as appropriate.

IDF maintains a set of detailed regulations and instructions regarding the management of an archive, recording minefields and mined areas. During the past year, the IDF's EC continued its program to preserve the minefields' history (including digital records).

Furthermore, IDF commanders and soldiers at different levels are regularly provided with training in the Laws of Armed Conflict. In this regard, training which includes legal obligations under APII is provided to relevant personnel.

During 2023 the EC instructed the forces training near minefield areas about the risks mines form.

Information to the civilian population

Information regarding Israel's status and obligations vis-à-vis CCW in general and APII in particular is publicly available since Israel's ratification of the Protocol.

Additionally, organizers of field trips such as those conducted by schools, youth movements and company employees are obligated to coordinate their route with the relevant IDF Area Command. Upon such coordination, field trip organizers are briefed as to the location of minefields situated in the area, or suspected areas that are treated as mined until cleared and verified, and are given the appropriate mine awareness instructions. It should be emphasized that land maps, which are issued by the Israeli Mapping Center (IMC), and which are commercially available, contain clear markings regarding the topographic location of minefields and were updated in September 2023 . The IMC minefield maps assist schools, youth movements and company employees, and they are also recommended for personal use by civilians when organizing their trips.

The locations of minefields are also accessible for the public in the official map website of the government of Israel (govmap.gov.il).

In order to prevent any accidental entry into potentially dangerous areas, the minefields are surrounded with wire fence and warning signs in three languages (Hebrew, Arabic and English), are clearly positioned on the perimeters of minefields. During 2023, the IDF has installed additional signs in the northern part of the country, more visible due to their size and height, to enhance civilians attention to minefields located in snow covered areas. Further information regarding minefield locations is provided by local municipalities to the general population upon land rights and use inquiries.

The MoD (Ministry of Defense), via its website on the Internet and in writing, provided Israeli Defense Industry and other arms manufacturers and exporters with the relevant instructions of APII, especially the restrictions on the production of mines as indicated in the Technical Annex and the prohibitions undertaken in the unilateral moratorium on any exports, sales or transfers of APLs.

The Israeli National Mine Action Authority (INMAA) - responsible for the civilian demining operations in Israel - manages a "minefield information bank" that is open for public queries concerning the plans and programs of demining, as well as for measures taken to enhance public awareness of safety and security, in order to minimize mine-related risks.

Awareness campaign video clips, in Hebrew and Arabic created by the Government Publications Bureau, have been broadcasted in the media (Radio and the Internet), as well as at specific school workshops.

Form B
Article
13.4.b

Mine clearance and rehabilitation programs

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ...on

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programs;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party **ISRAEL** reporting for time period from **1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023**

Mine clearance program

The IDF's EC continued in 2023 to implement its annual program of reducing the number of mine affected areas, monitoring and maintaining protection of minefields and suspected areas, in accordance with the relevant APII provisions, embodied in the military regulations. In this regard, extended monitoring, fences and markings of the minefields were maintained throughout the year by special EC units dedicated to this mission.

During winter time, special attention is given to minefields which are located in proximity to farms, residential areas, hiker routes, etc., as mines may be carried away into these areas by floods and running water.

During the past year, the IDF conducted hundreds of inspections of the fencing and marking of minefields. The IDF has also made significant progress in re-surveying mine affected areas, and in examining the possibility of area cancelation, following a completion of a fully detailed non-technical survey.

The IDF's EC also continued its activities in promoting the project of improving the capabilities of precisely recording minefields (GPS&GIS) and building an accurate archive of manually-emplaced minefields. In addition to the "minefield information bank" run by INMAA, as stated in form A which is open and easily accessed, updated information has been made available, as appropriate, to relevant civilian municipalities and establishments upon request.

In 2023, the IDF's EC cleared 75,000 m², destroying approximately 620 mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

INMAA defines clearance policies, sets the national priorities and implements them in coordination with other relevant governmental ministries, the IDF and local authorities. INMAA is an organization run by skilled and experienced Mine Action personnel. INMAA keeps mapping existing minefields and sets priorities, creating a work plan for mine clearance in coordination with the relevant agencies.

INMAA continues its clearance operations and land release intended for civil use, as defined in the Minefield Clearance Law (MCL 5771-2011).

INMAA has an approved annual and perennial mine clearance plan which is executed by civilian local operators.

In 2023 INMAA completed clearance of approximately 5,192,000 m², destroying 25,312 mines and ERW's.

Rules and regulations concerning the legislation, insurance, clearance methods and quality management appear in the Israeli National Mine Action Standards, which are updated on occasion on INMAA's website.

Rehabilitation programs

Israel has vast experience in the field of rehabilitation, with over 2,000 traumatic amputations within the IDF and several dozens of civilian victims of landmines, UXOs, improvised explosives and other devices, caused, inter alia, by terrorist attacks.

Israel's medical services developed advanced surgical capabilities in managing amputations and in rehabilitating people who lost their limbs or had multisystem injuries. They are now well trained and equipped to deal with the unfortunate effects of landmines. Relevant medical institutions in Israel have accumulated vast experience in fitting computerized knee prosthetics to traumatic amputees.

Major Israeli hospitals and rehabilitation centers responsible for facilitating comprehensive rehabilitation programs are: "Tel-Hashomer" ("Sheba medical center"), "Reut" and "Loewenstein" in Tel-Aviv; "Rambam" and "Bnei Zion" in Haifa.

Additionally, Israel has six laboratories specializing in the building of prosthetic devices, ten laboratories specializing in the building of orthotics, more than a dozen orthopedic shoemakers and many physiotherapists in the field of orthopedic rehabilitation.

These health care providers render assistance not only to Israeli citizens, but also to people from neighboring countries and the Mediterranean region as a whole.

Technical requirements and relevant information

Form C

Article
13.4.c

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party **ISRAEL** reporting for time period from **1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023**

Technical requirements

Compliance with the technical requirements of APII was verified prior to and throughout Israel's ratification process. Following the ratification, and in order to guarantee Israel's continued compliance, technical inspections are routinely conducted by the EC. As mentioned above, this includes inspection and maintenance of fences and markings of the mined areas. It was conducted, as appropriate, also in the course of this year.

Israel uses several kinds of machine equipment in its mine clearance operations. They include, where appropriate – screening & crushing systems, bucket loaders, excavators, sifters, flail/tiller machines, etc.

All the machines used for mine clearance are tested and approved by INMAA during the initial preparation period of an operation. INMAA has a very stable and developed system of Quality Management and Result Based Management on its Mechanical Operations.

Form DArticle
13.4.d**Legislation**

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(d) **legislation related to this Protocol;**"

Remark:

High Contracting Party **ISRAEL** reporting for the time period of **1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023**

Legislation

In order to implement the Minefield Clearance Law, the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, established the Israeli National Mine Action Authority (INMAA) within the Ministry of Defense, and set forth its authorities and responsibilities. INMAA is tasked with forming a national demining plan, which will be consistent with Israel's international obligations and based on IDF demining procedures and instructions, as compatible as possible with the International Mine Action Standards endorsed by the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group.

The law provides for the formulation of perennial and annual national mine action plans and sets forth the establishment of a professional Advisory Board composed of representatives of the relevant ministries, governmental and municipal authorities, as well as a representative of the mine victim community. Additional issues provided for within the Law include: the coordination and cooperation between INMAA and the IDF; provisions for the employment of private contractors in mine clearance operations; earmarking of specific government budget for such activities; and the establishment of a National Minefield Clearance Fund which will receive, manage and allocate donations. There are also IDF regulations and orders concerning marking, fencing and monitoring as well as demining and disposing of mines, booby-traps and other devices.

Moreover, the Israeli Defense Export Control act of 2007 criminalizes, inter alia, any unauthorized export. This law serves as Israel's statutory framework for the implementation of its obligations under the CCW regarding restrictions and prohibitions on transfer. In addition, the moratorium on export, sale or transfer of any APL continues to be in force, and is strictly enforced by Israel's Defense Export Control Agency (DECA) in the IMOD.

Form E

Article
13.4.e

International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ...on:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party ISRAEL reporting for the time period of 1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023

International cooperation on mine clearance

Israel continues to promote the issue of international cooperation in the areas of mine clearance, mine awareness and mine victim rehabilitation. These initiatives contribute to the global efforts aimed at the alleviation of the humanitarian problems associated with mines.

There is ongoing cooperation and coordination with neighboring countries in support of the demining activities along the mutual borders, as feasible and appropriate.

Technical cooperation and assistance

Israeli companies have achieved technical expertise in the field of mine clearance and they contribute to the international mine clearing efforts.

During the past year, several Israeli companies continued to export humanitarian demining protection gears, such as inflammable sapper sandals, minefield clearing equipment and instruments for aerial measures to detect mines and mined areas.

Form F
Article
13.4.f

Other relevant matters

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(e) **other relevant matters.**"

Remark:

High Contracting Party **ISRAEL** reporting for time period from **1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023**

Other relevant matters

In 1994 Israel unilaterally declared a moratorium on any export, sale or transfer of all types of anti-personnel mines. The moratorium was declared in recognition of the grave humanitarian consequences associated with anti-personnel mines and the need, in this respect, for self-imposed state restraint. Since its initiation, the moratorium has been extended for additional three-year periods, most recently in 2023 (in force until July 2026). In due time, the competent authorities will initiate an internal review process with a view to prolong the moratorium on APLs. The IMOD's Export Control Directorate strictly implements and verifies compliance with the moratorium.

Form G**Information to the UN-database on mine clearance**

Article 11
para 2

"The High Contracting Parties shall provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially on:

- information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance"

Remark:

High Contracting Party **ISRAEL** reporting for the time period of **1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023**

Means and Technologies of Mine Clearance

An updated list of the mine clearance companies approved by INMAA for 2023

MINE CLEARANCE COMPANIES

<p><u>IMAG</u> Hashita St 45., Industrial park (south) Caesarea, Israel Tel: 972-48885550 Fax: 972-48885549 E-mail: office@ieod.co.il Website: www.ieod.co.il</p>	<p><u>4M</u> P.O.B 294, 7913500, Kiboz Karmiye Tel +972-8-6749704 E-mail: info@4-mine.com Website: www.4-mine.com</p>	<p><u>Minefree</u> 24 David Navon, 5691000, Magshimim. Tel: +972-39097106 www.minefree.co.il</p>	<p><u>AMAN</u> Haberzel St 34, Ramat Hahayal, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel. Tel: +972-37659504 E-mail: salfasi@amanet.co.il http://aman-amanet.co.il</p>
<p><u>QUADRO Projects & Technologies LTD.</u> 22 Saharov St. New Industrial Zone Rishon Lezion 75707, Israel Tel: 972-3-9413010 Fax: 972-3-9410743 E-mail: pini@quadro.co.il</p>	<p><u>THE HALO TRUST</u> Usishkin 5, Ramat Hasharon Tel 972-54 -9203336 E-mail: mail@halowestbank.org Website: www.halotruster.org</p>	<p><u>IEOD</u> Hashita St 45., Industrial park (south) Caesarea, Israel Tel: 972-48885550 Fax: 972-48885549 E-mail: office@ieod.co.il Website: www.ieod.co.il</p>	

MINE CLEARANCE QA/QC CONTRACTORS

<p><u>GA-MAN</u> Hazait 21 AHITUV Tel: +972-54-4869494 Email: azogil@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>4CI SECURITY LTD</u> HATAAS 20 KFAR SABA E-mail: 4ci@4ci-security.com Website: www.4ci-security.com</p>	<p><u>OpMS- Open Minded Solutions Ltd</u> Yona Hanavi 1, Modiin, Israel 7178477 Tel: +972-52-9202787 Email: royinahari@gmail.com</p>	

Experts in Rehabilitation Programs:

Ministry of Defense	Dr Dror Wasserman	972-50-8800550
Ha'emek Hospital	Dr Alex Friedman	972-54-6406760
Bnei Zion Hospital	Dr Boris Chelbian	972-50-6267333
Lowenstein Hospital	Dr Hagai Amir	972-50-6263379
Tel Aviv Medical Center	Dr Ana Seizin	972-50-7189103
Sheba Medical Center	Dr Oren Barzel	972-50-8946748
	Dr Israel Dudkevitch	972-52-4266655
	Dr Orli Barak Tzafrir	972-50-4048157
Hadassah Medical Center	Dr Isabella Schwartz	972-50-8573783
Reuth medical center	Prof Rafi Heruti	972-54-6791704
Barzilai Hospital	Dr Michael Vashavsky	972-53-7678693
Ale Negev Hospital	Dr Itzhak Sivner	972-50-6248400